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EAST TEXAS

C. K. CHAMBERLAIN

The Rusk County Historical Survey Committee, for the third year, continues to conduct a radio program, "History over the Coffee Cups" each Friday morning at 8:30. This program is on station KGRI, Henderson.

In July, 1965, the Committee published a *History of Pine Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Rusk County, Texas*. The church was organized about 1850. Since the publication date a twenty-one page supplement has been added. A short story of Pine Grove is given along with a history of the leading early families of the community.

In response to Governor John Connally's proclamation of December 5, as Thomas J. Rusk day in Texas, the Rusk County Historical Survey Committee and the Rusk County Heritage Association sponsored a ceremony in front of the Rusk statue on the Rusk County courthouse lawn. County Judge Paul S. Colley presided and spoke briefly on Rusk's career. The commemorative address was given by the Reverend Goldman Drury.

The Rusk County Historical Survey Committee, along with the Overton and Rusk County Chambers of Commerce, numerous firms, organizations, and individuals, participated in the dedication, October 3, 1965, of a Texas Historical Marker for the East Texas Oil Field Discovery well. The occasion also celebrated the thirty-fifth anniversary of the discovery well.

Rusk County Judge Paul Colley was master of ceremonies, the featured speaker was H. L. Hunt, and Kenneth Miller unveiled the marker.

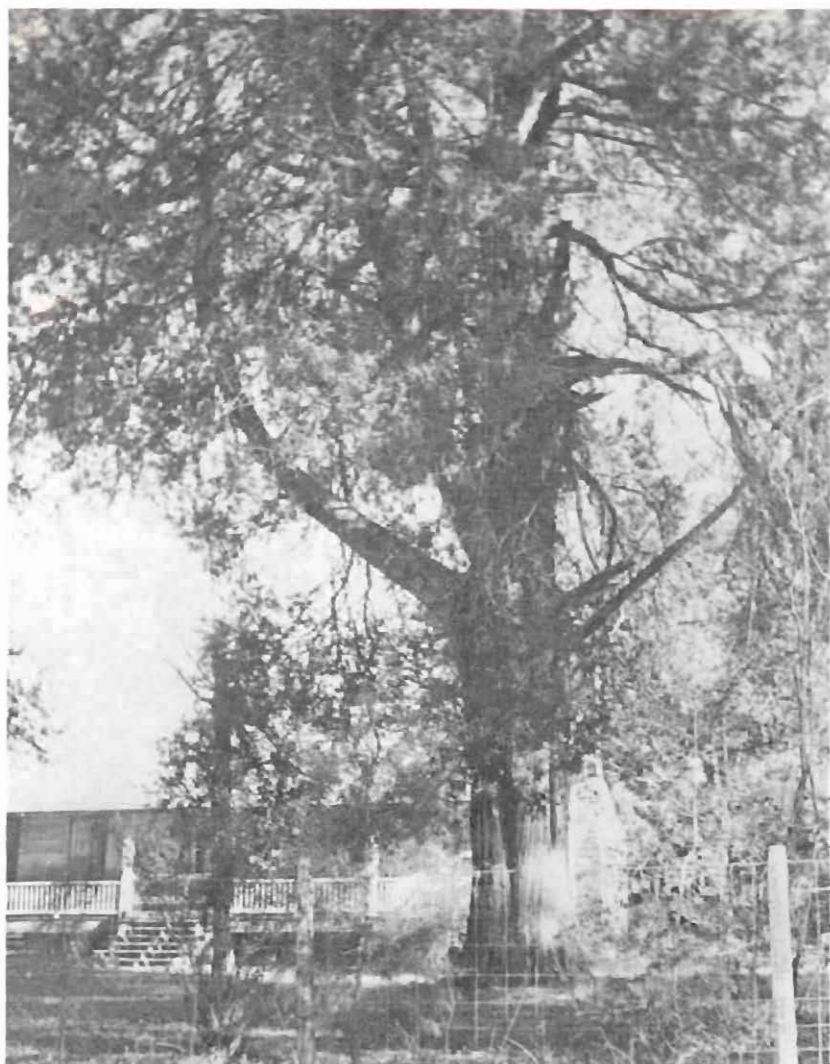
While Jasper County has lost many of its historic structures to the triple scourge of fire, decay, and the devastations of progress, a few have survived the ravages of time. One of the older, if not the oldest, structure in the county, is located less than a mile north of Roganville on the Rock Hill road. The building, a residence, belongs to Mrs. W. H. Bridges, who has lived in it for the past twenty-seven years.

Begun in 1838 by Ruffin C. Turner, the residence was completed about two years later, and, since then, the house has been lived in, used continuously, and kept in such good repair that much of the original paint still serves the purpose for which it was applied.

The Texas State Historical Survey Committee approved a medallion for the historic building with a plate explaining its significance.

When the medallion was presented for Mrs. Bridges' home, Texas A & M University and the Texas Forest Service also presented a large marker for a cedar tree in the front yard. This tree, an Eastern red cedar or *Juniperus*

LIBRARY
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE COLLEGE
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



Home of Mrs. W. H. Bridges, Roganville, Texas

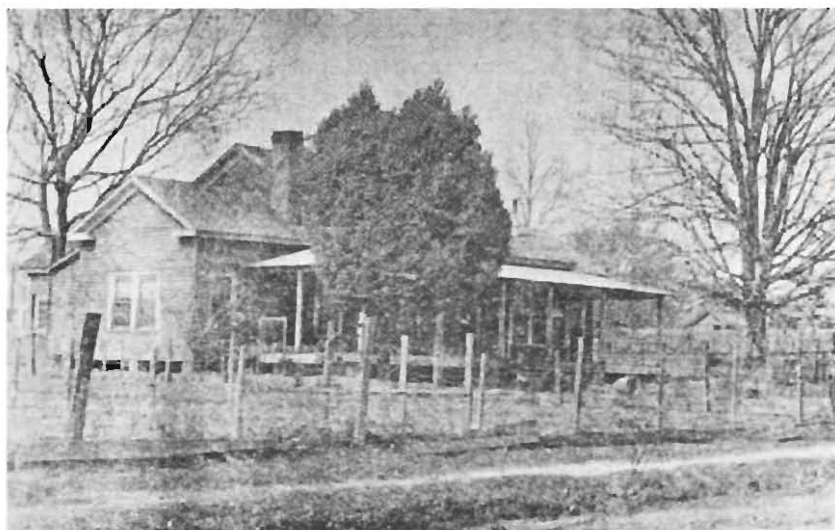
Virginiana, to use the botanical name, is the largest of its kind in the entire United States. The tree and its recognition should be a matter of pride for Jasper County and all of Texas. Measurements are: seventy-six feet in height, a crown spread at thickest part of forty-five feet, and a circumference of 146 inches, four feet above the ground.

The county committee has applied for an historic building medallion to be awarded to the Dixie Baptist Church. This structure, located seven and one-half miles west of Jasper and a little north of FM 2755, is about halfway between the old communities of Peachtree and Bevilport.

The church, organized in 1852, may well be the oldest in Texas founded for colored members only and still in use. The first "church house" was erected in 1853 by the congregation. All materials used were given by Joshua Seale, one of the large slave owners of Jasper County. Although a larger brick building was dedicated approximately a year ago, the old one is intact and in use as an education building and fellowship hall.

The man who organized the church was Richard (Uncle Dick) Joshua Seale's slave and overseer of the Seale plantation. According to custom, Uncle Dick took his master's surname and is known in the history and tradition of Jasper County as Richard Seale. Unfortunately, all early church records were lost about the turn of the century when fire destroyed the home of the trustee who had them in charge.

In July, 1865, E. I. Kellie, recently returned from four years of hard fighting with Company E. First Texas Legion (27th Cavalry), Ross's Brigade, Jackson's Division, Army of Tennessee, began publication of a small weekly newspaper in Jasper. Because he had worked in a printing office before the Civil War and was only twenty years old when the war ended, he called his paper *The Jasper News-Boy*. Although it has changed ownership, the paper has never ceased publication nor changed its name. The centennial observance extends from July, 1965, until July, 1966. There



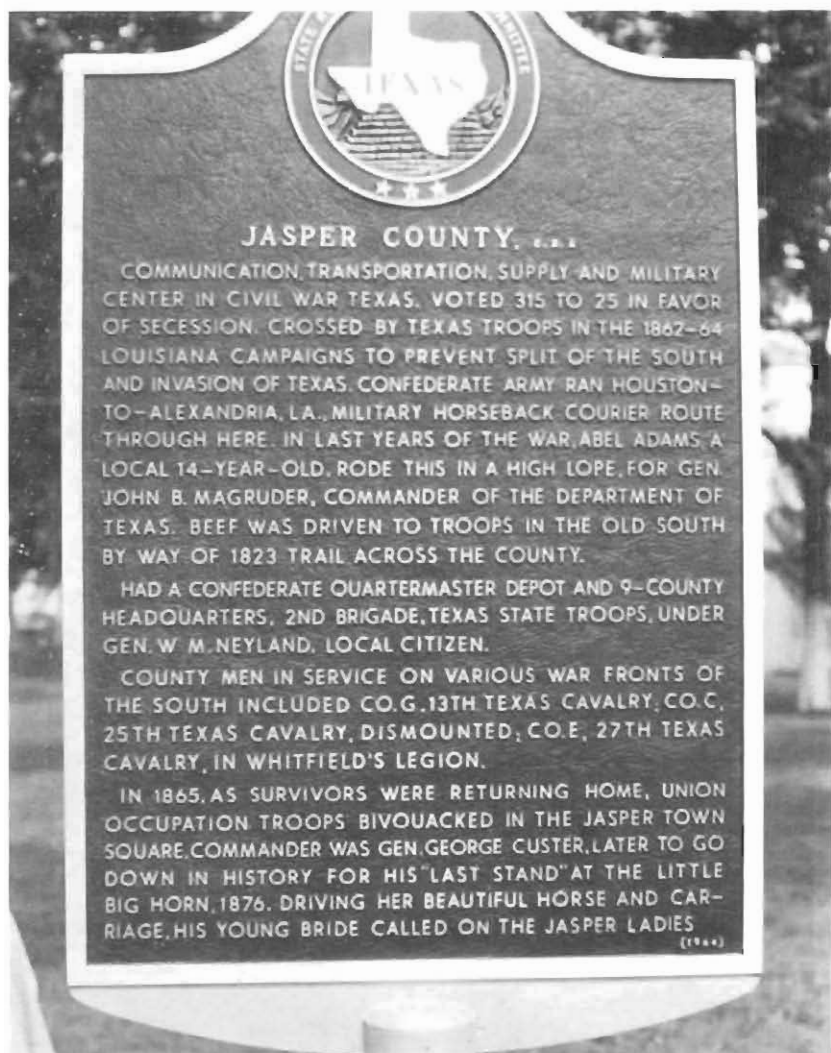
Kellie Family Home

will be four centennial editions which each subscriber of *The Jasper News-Boy* will receive without additional charge. A limited number of each centennial issue will be for sale.

As the present publisher, Max H. Robinson, says, "In those early times, publishers were not concerned with legal complications. They were more

likely to invite bodily harm from too much freedom with words." Kellie was a fearless publisher, and made scathing attacks on Scallawags and Carpetbaggers. He encouraged Democrats to register in the days of Reconstruction and his motto was "We bend our knee to none but God."

The centennial numbers should be interesting reading for exact quotations taken from different issues of *The Jasper News-Boy* will be given. Each centennial issue will represent a different era in the one hundred years of the newspaper's existence.



A marker, commemorating the part Jasper County had in the Civil War, was unveiled Saturday afternoon, June 5, 1965. After the ceremony, members of the Jasper County Historical Survey Committee and friends repaired to the courthouse, where Mrs. R. C. Pace acted as hostess for a social hour in the Commissioners Court room and Miss Eulis Hancock conducted a tour and inspection of historic items, pictures, papers, and documents which were on display in the office suite of the county clerk.

John Alvis Howard, a Center businessman, heads the Shelby County Historical Society. The Shelby County Historical Society is now in its fifth year, having been organized May 10, 1962, with Malcolm Weaver as the first president.

The Society has succeeded in keeping its museum, located on Shelbyville Street, open two days a week. The museum building was donated to the Society by the late Dr. T. L. Hurst, and many interesting items have been secured.

Included in the projects of the Society for the past six months has been the beautification of the sites of the historical markers in the county. Decorative walls eighteen inches high have been built around each marker, and the garden clubs of Shelby County will keep the plots surrounding the markers.

The carving of gavels from historic trees is a project of Eugene Latimer, a charter member of the Shelby County Historical Society. Latimer has carved gavels from a limb of the nation's largest water oak, which is located in Shelby County. He has also carved gavels from oak trees known to be more than one hundred years old which are growing on the courthouse grounds.

Three charter members of the Society have recently died: Hugh Chambers, Bennie E. Nix, and Mrs. Edith Jones.

Mrs. Pete Dellinger is publicity chairman.

Mrs. Dan Lester, of Jefferson, on an invitation from Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, attended a Doer's Luncheon in the White House on January 25, 1966. The Doer's Luncheons are monthly affairs and Mrs. Johnson gives them to recognize outstanding individuals from over the nation who have contributed to the betterment of their areas. Eighteen women are invited to each luncheon.

Mrs. Lester is regional chairman of sixteen counties of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, and a promoter of the annual Jefferson Historical Pilgrimage.

Marion County received, in 1965, a Distinguished Service Award. This award was presented by the State Historical Survey Committee. It is awarded to county survey committees which have an aggressive and a

well-rounded local RAMPS program, and to county committees which have cooperated with other county committees and with the state RAMPS program.

In 1965 the Marion County Historical Survey Committee entered the state contest for best county chairman and the best subcommittee chairman. Mrs. W. S. Terry won honorable mention as a county chairman, and Mrs. Jack Bullard won first place as a subcommittee chairman.

In 1966 the Marion County group will strive toward winning the Millard C. Cope Memorial Award for the best county program of work in the state. The first-place award will be an official Texas Historical marker, valued at \$200.00.

The officers of the Marion County Survey Committee are: Mrs. W. S. Terry, County Chairman and historical preservations; Mrs. Jack Bullard, vice-chairman and historical marker-landmarks; Mrs. G. W. Carpenter, secretary-treasurer, reporter and finance committee member; Mrs. A. K. Payne, finance committee chairman; and Mrs. Dan Lester, finance committee member.

Jefferson has been selected by the National Parks Service to be included in the historical preservation program for 1966. Jefferson is one of three cities in the United States to be honored. Another city will be in Oklahoma and the other will be in Hawaii. The preservation program is intended to provide complete historical data on a number of buildings in Jefferson which are not presently recorded in the National Parks Service office, in San Francisco, or in the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C.

The historical information gathered on each building will include its complete history, measurements, and photographs.

Professor M. M. Rotsch, of the architecture department of Texas A & M University, will direct the program and he will be assisted by six senior architecture students. The three months program will be conducted in June, July, and August, 1966.

Individuals and civic groups in Jefferson will supplement the necessary funds to complete the study.

On December 5, 1965, the Cass County Historical Survey Committee dedicated an historical marker honoring Dr. Marion DeKalb Taylor, long-time medical doctor and Texas legislator. Dr. Taylor came with his family to Cass County in 1845, and in that year began the study of medicine. He began his medical practice in Cass County in 1849 and enjoyed a successful practice for some forty years.

Not only did Dr. Taylor begin his medical practice in Cass County in 1849, but he also was elected to the state legislature, where he served almost continuously until 1879. Dr. Taylor was speaker of the Texas House of Representatives during the Civil War. In his long legislative experi-

ence he also served terms in the Texas Senate. For many years Dr. Taylor was selected by the citizens of Cass County to represent the county in state Democratic conventions.

Members of the Marion County Historical Survey Committee assisted in dedicating the marker to Dr. Taylor.

The Morris County Historical Survey Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Terrell W. Connon, Jr., has obtained an official Texas Historical Market for the site of Chapel Hill College.

The marker reads: "Chartered 1850. Opened 1852 in brick building on land donated by Allen Urquhart, Republic of Texas surveyor. Founded by Marshall Presbyterian of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, to educate ministers. Also offered courses in medicine, law, and liberal arts. Closed in 1869 for lack of students and funds."

The Polk County Historical Survey Committee has continued to add archival material to the Polk County Library-Museum. New material recently obtained includes early Indian records, old cemetery censuses, family genealogies, county history, and early war records. The committee is continuing to certify structures and sites for official historical markers, and several such markers are on order. The committee is also planning to publish a two-volume history of Polk County; one volume on the county and its towns, and the other on the families of the county.

The Survey Committee sponsors and mans the museum, and will continue to do so until the museum foundation can afford to employ a museum director and a trained librarian. The foundation has received a bequest of \$100,000 for the library-museum and a site has been purchased. The foundation board is making a careful investigation of as many building plans as possible before employing an architect. The building fund is being supplemented with memorial contributions, and by the sale of Aline Rothe's *Kalita's People*, which is a history of the Alabama-Coustatta Indians.

Five delegates from Polk County attended the annual workshop in Odessa in October. At this meeting the Polk County Historical Survey Committee was recognized for a Distinguished Service Award, and as "Quota Busters." Polk County also won an Honorable Mention on the Best Program of work and on the County Scrapbook. The Scrapbook will be kept on exhibition in the State Archives, along with some other county winners, for six months. The Odessa meeting named the chairman of the Polk County Historical Survey Committee, Mrs. John J. Hollenburger, as the Best County Chairman in the State.

The Polk County Historical Survey Committee helped organize a local chapter of the Sons of the Confederacy with thirty-four charter members.

The committee is planning an even more effective program for 1966, and publishes a monthly mimeographed pamphlet which it calls, "Polk County Historical Survey News."

The Hunt County Historical Society, under the leadership of the Honorable Fletcher Warren as president, has featured a study of local history as related to adjacent counties. Historians from the counties bordering Hunt have appeared as guest speakers discussing their history with emphasis on portions related to and influencing Hunt County history.

At the December meeting Mrs. Marguerite Montgomery Brazier of Emory, distinguished as the woman County Judge of Rains County, was the speaker. She followed representatives from Collin, Fannin, Delta, and Hopkins Counties.

The Hunt County Society also heard an interesting lecture at its September meeting on the archeology of the Hunt County area by Dr. Evan Paul Robert of the history faculty of East Texas State University. This program was conducted by Dr. Frank B. Jackson, head of the history department of East Texas State.

A long-time major project of the Hunt County Society has been the restoration of the Ende-Gaillard House, oldest building in Hunt County. Recently seven pieces of the original furnishings were received as a gift from the Gaillard family. The items were shipped from Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they have been in the home of the eldest granddaughter of the builder of the house. At her recent death the items were restored to the old home.

During the past six months the Hunt County Historical Society has, through its associate agency, the Hunt County Historical Survey Committee, observed a series of "firsts" in local history by erecting markers commemorating the fact that the Greenville electric light plant was the first municipally owned electric plant in Texas and that Mrs. Lallie P. Carlisle, County Clerk in 1902, was the first woman to hold an elective public office in Texas. A marker was placed at her grave in Greenville's East Mount Cemetery. A marker also was placed at the grave of William Lane, at Bethel Cemetery six miles south of Greenville, honoring him as the first Anglo-American born in Hunt County.

W. Walworth Harrison, of Greenville, is curator and correspondent of the Hunt County Historical Society.

Elmo Johnson, Jr., has been appointed chairman of the Galveston County Historical Survey Committee, succeeding the late H. W. Darst, who died July 3, 1965.

Johnson is a prominent Galveston attorney and is associated with the law firm of Markwell, Stubbs, Dalehite, and Decker.

The committee has received a Texas Historical Survey marker, depicting Galveston's participation in the naval history of the Civil War, which will be placed at the Galveston Yacht Basin.

Proofs have also been received by the committee for the series of historical markers to be mounted on the Courthouse Square in the near future. The markers depict Galveston County history from 1527 to 1965. The markers are expected to arrive within the next several months.

A survey historical medallion and plaque also has been installed at the J. C. Trube home at 17th and Sealy Avenue in Galveston, a home which is of Victorian design and is reported to resemble a castle in Denmark.

An official Confederate Memorial Information Marker commemorating a Civil War iron works is to be erected eight miles southwest of Jacksonville. The marker will relate the significance of the smelter and its contribution to the history of Texas in the Confederacy.

Jack Moore, principal of the Jacksonville Junior High School, gave important assistance in the research that led to erection of the marker. Moore is president of the Cherokee County Historical Survey Committee and has accumulated a large collection of data pertaining to the early days of Cherokee County.

The first Texas Historical Marker dedicated in Newton County was in honor of the W. H. Ford Male and Female College, which was established in Newton in September, 1889. Funds to establish the college had been obtained from the sale of stock, and George Adams, a lumber contractor living in the southern part of the county, purchased more stock than any other individual.

The original site of the college was where the Newton High School building is now located. The college became a part of the Newton school system in 1906.

The W. H. Ford Male and Female College building was moved to the town square in 1908 by Pate Simmons, who used it as a hotel. In 1914 Simmons sold the building to the Powell family, who continued to operate the hotel for a number of years. At the present, 1966, after being remodeled, the former college building is the home of George O. Powell and his sister, Miss Helen Powell, and the Powells and another sister, Mrs. Mamie Mock of Marshall, are the owners of the building.

Judge W. H. Ford, for whom the college was named, was a prominent lawyer and jurist in East Texas. Ford was born in Newton County August 13, 1843, and died in 1900. He served in Ross's Brigade during the Civil War and in 1872 Governor Edmund J. Davis appointed him to fill an unexpired term as sheriff and tax collector for Newton County. Ford was a graduate of Lebanon Law School, Lebanon, Tennessee.

The first president of the college was Joseph P. Syler; other presidents were: J. M. Horger, B. F. Phelps, William R. Dewitt, and James E. Sharpe.

A second historical marker for Newton County, and the first for Burkeville, was an official Texas Historical Marker for the historic John R. Burke homesite. The marker reads: "Colonel John Burke homesite. A few feet west of this marker was built in 1845 the first home in Burkeville by founder of the town, donor of land for Newton County Courthouse, friend of Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston, and 1853-55 member of the Texas Legislature."

Burke died in 1855. The heart pine house was razed in 1945, and was rebuilt elsewhere.

Burkeville has continued to the present time to be an important trading center. Burke left Nashville, Tennessee, and came to Texas in the 1820's, and received a large grant of land. He is reported to have brought to Texas many important books, fine furniture including a piano, and an unusual array of silver and china.

Three of Burke's descendants attended the dedication of the homesite marker: a great-granddaughter, Mrs. Virginia Prince of Chireno, and a great-great-granddaughter, Mrs. Vester Smith, and her daughter, Felicia, of Jasper.

Burkeville received a second official Texas Historical Marker when a marker for the Round Table Inn was dedicated. The Round Table Inn was first erected in 1865 by David F. Harrell, a Confederate veteran, who left Alabama and came to Texas in 1865 seeking better farming land. When the building was first constructed it was called the Harrell House. Harrell constructed a large dining table, of the lazy susan style, which could serve twelve to fifteen guests at the same time. The Round Table Inn took its name from its large dining table.

The Round Table Inn was located in Burkeville and on the old military road from Alexandria, Louisiana, to Burr's Ferry on the Sabine, and on to Beaumont, Texas, and because of this location entertained many distinguished guests.

The original building burned in 1927 and was rebuilt in 1928 by Mrs. T. J. Windham, a daughter of Harrell. Meals were served until Mrs. Windham's death in 1932; since then only for family reunions. The building is now operated as a rooming house by Mrs. Helen Windham Duncan, a daughter of Mrs. Windham.

The Newton County History Survey Committee consists of: Mrs. Earl Hines, chairman; Mrs. J. C. Kelly, secretary; Mrs. C. C. Leach, Mrs. Jim Syler, and Mrs. Hagar Davis.

The Harrison County Historical Society and the Harrison County Historical Survey Committee have accumulated many interesting items for the Harrison County Museum, which is located in the Old Harrison County Courthouse.

The Harrison County Historical Museum was opened to the public at 4 P.M. Sunday, October 3, 1965. The ceremony was held on the east side of the Old Courthouse on Whetstone Square in downtown Marshall.

PROGRAM

Formal Opening of the Harrison County Historical Museum
4:00 P.M. Sunday, October 3, 1965

Presiding—Eugene Spruell, President, Harrison County Historical Society

Presentation of the Colors—Boy Scouts—Pine Tree District

The National Anthem—Marshall High School Band

Invocation—Dr. H. C. Bennett, President, East Texas Baptist College

Introduction and Recognitions

Presentation of State Medallion

For Old Courthouse—Mrs. Dan Lester, Chairman, Region 5, Texas State Survey Committee

Speaker—John D. Furrh, Jr., Harrison County Judge

Seth Walton, history professor of East Texas Baptist College, and curator of the Harrison County Museum, reports the museum has received not only enthusiastic support of the citizens of Marshall and Harrison County, but also by tourists from many sections of the country. Walton writes a column in each issue of the *Harrison County Historical Herald* which he calls *Museum News*. In this column he tells of the items which have been obtained for the museum and the needs of the museum. In one issue Walton wrote: "The museum also contains household implements; weapons such as guns and associated items; children's articles; business aids such as desks, typewriters, checks, letterhead, cash registers, etc.; the T & P Railroad—among the county's oldest businesses—is represented by pictures, books, an extraordinary spike, annual reports, bonds, and checks."

One of the more interesting items in the Museum is a gown worn by Lady Bird Johnson when President and Mrs. Johnson entertained the Premier of Japan.

The Harrison County Historical Society publishes the *Harrison County Historical Herald*. This excellent little paper is published once a month from September through May. In September, 1965, the *Herald* began its second year of publication with Eugene Spruell as the editor. Editor Spruell wrote in the September, 1965 issue: "Through the support of several civic-minded business firms the *Herald* is coming to you in a new format. The type is set by Linotype rather than typewriter, and is printed on the offset presses of Bradley Printing Company, Marshall. The new type will not



Gown worn by Lady Bird Johnson when she and the President entertained the Premier of Japan

only give the *Herald* a neater appearance, but will accommodate quite a bit more copy. Because of the increased cost of publishing the paper, the *Herald* will be mailed only to members of the Harrison County Historical Society. Membership dues are \$5.00 a year."

The Panola County Historical Association has named twenty-six additional directors. In a recent meeting the association approved six committee chairmen named by President Tom Bankhead, and made plans to complete the county museum. The old county jail which was built in 1891 will house the museum. The committee chairmen for 1966 are: Rob Trumble, physical arrangements; Mrs. Mattie Jernigan, hospitality; Bev Brown, membership; Clabe Applegate, publicity; and Q. M. Martin, collection.

The new directors are: Bev Brown, Mrs. Mattie Jernigan, Clyde Carter, Mrs. Inez Pool, Mrs. Dorothy Hopkins, Mrs. Evangeline Holland, Mrs. Emma Brannon, Weldon Moore, Ray Vandirgriff, Mrs. Multon Payne, W. C. Hebert, Mrs. Mary Gholston, Lovell Kelley, Mrs. Alice Hawthorn, J. L. Bunyard, Mrs. Roy Biggerstaff, W. F. (Pat) Patterson, Mrs. J. T. Wright, David Clabaugh, Glen Flourney, Mrs. C. E. Moore, Mrs. Dixie Whitaker, and Clabe Applegate.

Other board members are: Miss Margie Neal, Mrs. R. P. Ash, Mrs. W. P. Owene, Mrs. Phoebe Sue Perlman, Rob Trumble, Travis Williamson, Judge LeRoy La Salle, Herman Jacobs, Dan Shaw, and Tom Bankhead.

Two Lamar Tech history professors have received grants which will enable them to work on research projects that are underway. Professor Wesley L. Norton is working on "A History and Bibliography of Religious Journalism in the Old Northwest Before the Civil War." Professor Ralph A. Wooster is working on a "Political History of Texas from Statehood to Secession."

Two Stephen F. Austin history professors have received grants that will enable them to devote all their time to research for at least part of the summer. Professor Robert Maxwell is working on a forest history of Texas, and Professor Archie McDonald is collecting material on William B. Travis.

Professor Ralph Goodwin of East Texas State University will be on leave during the summer of 1966. He will spend June on the Princeton University campus reading advanced placement examinations in American history. Professor Goodwin will spend July and August doing research on the United States Indian policy in the last half of the nineteenth century.

Professor James O. Wheaton of East Texas State University also will be on leave for the summer of 1966. Professor Wheaton will do research on the national political campaign of 1904.